

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached drawing sheets include changes to FIGS. 1 and 4. These sheets, which include FIGS. 1 and 4, replace the original sheets including FIGS. 1 and 4. In FIG. 1, the previously omitted descriptive text labels for items 5, R and 3 have been added. In FIG. 4, component 63 has been deleted from the drawing.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner's Office Action and the cited references have been given careful consideration. Following such consideration, claims 1, 3, 4 and 7 have been amended to define more clearly the patentable invention applicant believes is disclosed herein. Moreover, claims 2, 5 and 8 have been cancelled by the present amendment. Claim 6 is unchanged by the present amendment. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the claims in their present form, together with the following comments, and allow the application.

Title of the Invention

The title is now amended to "NON-CONTACT POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM UTILIZING SYNCHRONIZED COMMAND SIGNALS TO CONTROL AND CORRECT PHASE DIFFERENCES AMONGST POWER SUPPLY UNITS" as suggested by the Examiner.

Objection to the Drawings

FIGS. 1 and 4 are now amended in accordance with the Examiner's instructions in order to overcome the drawing objections. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the objections to drawing FIGS. 1 and 4.

Amendment to the Claims

Claim 1 is now amended to include limitations originally recited in claim 3. Claim 3 is now amended to define a more specific circuit configuration than originally defined by claim 3. As indicated above, claims 2, 5 and 8 are now cancelled. Claims 4 and 7 are now amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Obviousness Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

Independent claims 1 and 7 have been rejected as being obvious in view of the combined teachings of Nishino et al. (US 5,709,291) and Hayashi et al. (US 2002/0024828). Dependent claim 3 has been rejected as being obvious in view of the combined teachings of Nishino et al., Hayashi et al. and Premerlani (US 5,958,060).

Amended Claim 1

Limitations originally recited in claim 3 have now been incorporated into claim 1. As indicated above, original claim 3 has been rejected in view of the combined teachings of Nishino et al., Hayashi et al. and Premerlani. The Examiner acknowledges that Nishino et al and Hayashi et al. fail to disclose a command signal for compensating for a phase delay between subsequent power supply units. Premerlani discloses the invention for synchronizing clocks of upstream and downstream microprocessors, and a signal exchanged by a transmission line is “current and time stamp data between the local terminal and at least one remote terminal” (see column 2, lines 6-7). However, Premerlani fails to disclose “transmitting, to the downstream power supply unit, the command signal as a signal for compensating for a phase delay between the specific power supply unit and the power supply unit connected downstream” which is now recited in claim 1 of the present application. Thus, even if Nishino et al. and Hayashi et al. are combined with Premerlani, the applicant’s invention, as defined by amended claim 1, is not disclosed. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 1 is not obvious in view of the cited references.

Claims 3, 4 and 6 depend from claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons set forth above in connection with claim 1.

Amended Claim 7

As indicated above, original claim 7 has been rejected in view of Nishino et al. and Hayashi et al. by which a storage unit is disclosed. The storage unit of Hayashi et al. stores as initial data “sine wave reference data D(n) for the cycle where n changes from 1 to 256” (see paragraph [0038]). However, Hayashi et al. fails to disclose that the storage unit stores “a phase difference between the rectangular signal and the output current fed to the induction lines at each power consumption of the induction lines,” as required by claim 7 of the present application. Consequently, even if Hayashi et al. is combined with Nishino et al., the invention defined by amended claim 7 is not disclosed. Thus, it is submitted that claim 7 is not obvious in view of the cited references.

Conclusion

The cited references made of record and not relied upon have also been reviewed. It is respectfully submitted that none of these additional references anticipates or renders obvious the applicants' invention as defined by the present claims.

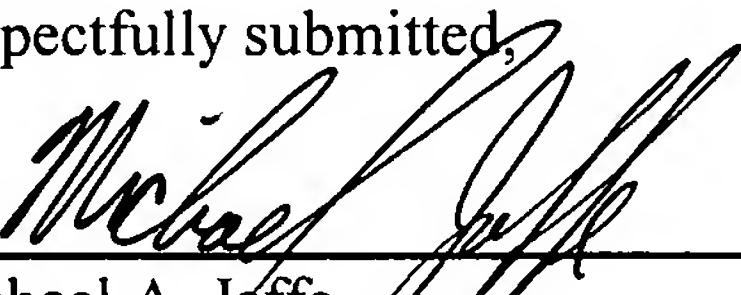
It should be noted that the IDS that accompanies this Response identifies Kazutoshi (US 7,009,860), which was cited by the Examiner in the Office Action dated March 3, 2009. However, the Examiner inadvertently omitted this reference from the Form-892 ("Notice of References Cited") that accompanied the Office Action. Accordingly, the applicant has identified this reference on the attached Form-1449 in order to make an official record of this reference in the present application.

In view of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes there are any further matters that need to be discussed in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0537, referencing our Docket No. MM9339PCT(US).

Date: June 1, 2009

Respectfully submitted,



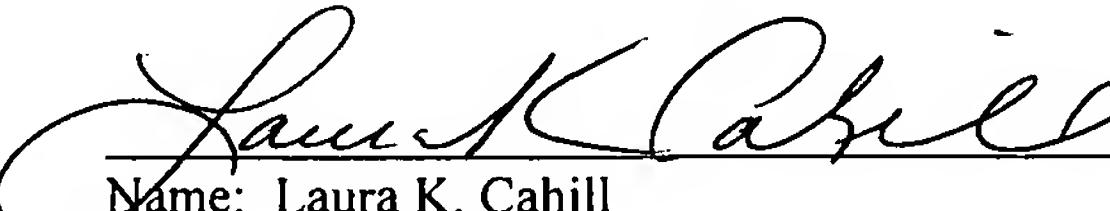
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I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referenced as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on the below date with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: June 1, 2009



Name: Laura K. Cahill

FIG. 1

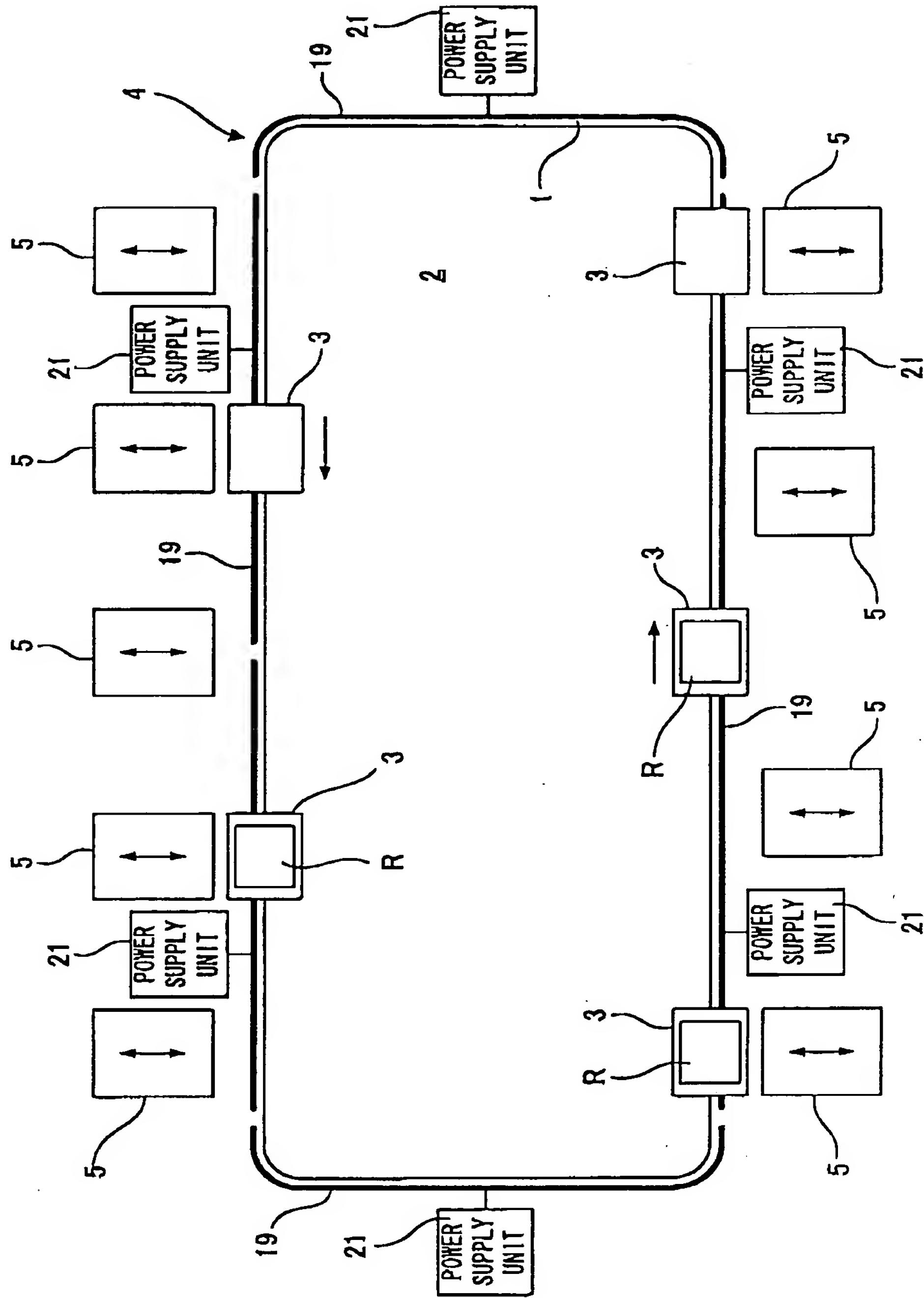


FIG. 4

